

4. Public Involvement

4.1 Overview

Since the passage of the Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), the emphasis on public involvement in transportation has taken on a new role. Although public participation has been an element of long range transportation planning in the past, these regulations call for a much more proactive approach. The NCDOT's Transportation Planning Branch has a long history of making public involvement a key element in the development of any long-range transportation plan, no matter the size of the area. This chapter is designed to provide an overview of the public involvement elements implemented into the development of the transportation plan for the town.

4.2 Study Initiation

The Warren County CTP study was initiated in April 2005. The Transportation Planning Branch met with Warren County officials on April 15, 2005 to identify the primary transportation concerns and to define the scope of the study.

4.3 Public Hearings

A public hearing was held by the Warren County Board of Commissioners with representatives from the Warrenton, Norlina, and Macon Town Boards during a regularly scheduled meeting of the Warren County Commissioners in the Warren County Courthouse on October 2, 2007. The County sent out notice of public hearing for the CTP through their standard procedures, which included posted flyers and newspaper listings. At this meeting, the CTP plan was presented to the County and Town Commissioners and upon discussion, the County asked for more time to consider the plan documents.

The CTP was subsequently adopted by the Warren County Commissioners on November 5, 2007, by a vote of 5-0. It was later adopted by the Town of Macon on October 9, 2007, the Town of Warrenton on November 12, 2007, and the Town of Norlina on April 7, 2008. The Kerr-Tar RPO endorsed the plan on March 17, 2008 at their regularly scheduled meeting. The North Carolina Board of Transportation adopted the Warren County CTP on June 6, 2008.